

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Pietras, et al.

Serial No.: 09/509,073

Confirmation No.: 5424

Filed: August 22, 2000

For: An Apparatus for Facilitating the Connection of Tubulars Using a Top Drive

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: J. Hawkins

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on
July 30, 2001, with the United States Postal Service as First
Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant
Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

July 30, 2001
Date

Robert D. Edmonds
Signature

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MARCH 29, 2001

In response to the Office Action dated March 29, 2001, having a shortened statutory period extended one month to expire on July 30, 2001, please enter the following amendments and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is authorized to charge \$80.00 for one additional independent claim to Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0012/WBP, along with any other fees to make this response timely.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 8 and 17-25, and replace the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, which apparatus comprises:
a body connectable to said top drive; and